

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

In the Non-Final Office action dated July 8, 2002, the Examiner indicates that claims 1-3, 5-13, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,999,213 to Tsushima et al. (hereinafter Tsushima) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,901,364 to Faulkerson et al. (hereinafter Faulkerson). Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tsushima in view of Faulkerson and U.S. Patent No. 5,633,678 to Parulski et al (hereinafter Parulski). Claims 14-21 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tsushima in view of Faulkerson and U.S. Patent No. 4,316,656 to Ishibashi et al. (hereinafter Ishibashi).

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Claims 1, 9, 10, 14, 16, 18, 21, 22 and 23 have been amended. Accordingly claims 1-23 are currently pending, and under consideration.

The Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-3, 5-13 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tsushima in view of Faulkerson. To the extent the Examiner may consider this rejection to apply to the newly amended claims, this rejection is traversed as being based upon a combination of references that neither teach nor suggest the novel features recited in the newly amended claims.

Amended independent claim 1 recites an electronic camera comprising amongst other

elements a playback unit having a display for at least playing back image information that is recorded on the recording medium, and wherein the display is enclosed within the main camera body.

The Office Action relies upon Tsushima for an alleged teaching of an operation input unit, an image capture unit, a disk drive, and a mode selector amongst other elements. The Office Action recognizes that Tsushima fails to teach that the operation input unit, the recorder, and the mode selector are enclosed within the camera body. The Office Action, therefore, relies upon Faulkerson to cure such deficiencies, and alleges that Faulkerson discloses an interactive optical scanner system that includes a camera with a plurality of tactilely-operated camera function keys disposed on the housing for providing respective camera function signals. The Office Action further alleges that it would have been obvious to modify Tsushima's camera to include the functions provided on the computer keyboard as taught by Faulkerson to increase the number of programmable functions of the camera. However, neither Tsushima nor Faulkerson whether taken singly or combined, teach or suggest at least a playback unit having a display wherein the display is enclosed within the main camera body. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of claim 1 should be withdrawn because neither Tsushima nor Faulkerson whether taken singly or combined, teach or suggest each feature of independent claim 1, as amended. MPEP §2143.03 instructs that "[t]o establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. In re Royka, 409 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)."

Accordingly Applicants respectfully assert that independent claim 1 is allowable. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 2-3 and 5-13 are allowable at least because of their

dependence from claim 1 and the reasons set forth above.

Amended independent claim 22 recites an electronic camera comprising, amongst other elements, playback means having a display for playing back image information recorded on the recording means. As discussed above, neither Tsushima nor Faulkerson whether taken singly or combined, teach or suggest at least a playback means having a display for playing back image information that is recorded on the recording means. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of claim 22 should be withdrawn because neither of the references whether taken singly or combined, teach or suggest each feature of independent claim 22, as amended. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 22 is allowable.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tsushima in view of Faulkerson and Parulski. This rejection is traversed as being based upon a combination of references that neither teach nor suggest the novel features recited in amended independent claim 1, from which claim 4 is dependent upon. As discussed above, neither Tsushima nor Faulkerson whether taken singly or combined, teach or suggest each feature of independent claim 1, as amended, and Parulski, fails to cure such deficiencies. Parulski teaches an electronic camera for capturing images. However, Parulski does not teach or suggest at least a playback unit having a display for at least playing back image information recorded on the recording medium or that the display is enclosed within a main camera body. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that dependent claim 4 is allowable at least because of its dependence from claim 1, and the reasons set forth above.

Claims 14-21 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tsushima in view of Faulkerson and Ishibashi. To the extent that the

Examiner may consider this rejection to apply to the newly amended independent claims, this rejection is traversed as being based upon a combination of references that neither teach nor suggest the novel features recited in the newly amended claims.

Independent claims 14, 18 and 21 as amended recite an electronic camera comprising amongst other elements a playback unit having a display for at least playing back image information that is recorded on the recording medium, and that the display is enclosed within a main camera body. As discussed above, neither Tsushima nor Faulkerson whether taken singly or combined, teach or suggest at least a playback unit having a display, wherein the display is enclosed within a main camera body. Ishibashi, also fails to cure such deficiency. Ishibashi discloses an information display arrangement provided in a viewfinder of a movie camera. However, the display arrangement disclosed by Ishibashi does not play back image information recorded on the recording medium as recited in amended independent claim 14. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that independent claims 14, 18 and 21 are allowable. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 15-17 are also allowable at least because of their dependence from claim 14, and the reasons set forth above. Applicant also respectfully asserts that claims 19-20 are also allowable at least because of their dependence from claim 18, and the reasons set forth above.

Amended claim 23 recites playback means having a display for playing back image information that is recorded on the recording medium. As discussed above Tsushima in view of Faulkerson and Ishibashi whether taken singly or combined, fail to teach or suggest each feature of amended independent claim 23. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that independent claim 23 is allowable.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned “Version with Markings to Show Changes Made.”

CONCLUSIONS

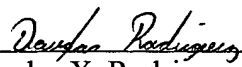
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of all rejections, and the timely allowance of all pending claims.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite the prosecution.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

By: 
Douglas X. Rodriguez
Reg. No. 47,269

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CUSTOMER NO. 009629
MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
Telephone: 202-739-3000
Facsimile: 202-739-3001

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 9, 10, 14, 16, 18, 21, 22 and 23 have been amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) An electronic camera having a plurality of functions including capturing and recording images, comprising:

an operation input unit for inputting external operations that designate corresponding functions of the camera to be performed;

an image pickup unit for capturing an image of an object;

a recorder for recording the image captured by the image pickup unit on a recording medium;

a playback unit **having a display** for at least playing back image information that is recorded on the recording medium; and

a mode selector for selecting one operation mode of the camera from a plurality of available operation modes that include an operation explanation mode,

wherein if the operation explanation mode is selected at the mode selector, the playback unit plays back **on the display** an (operation guide that is pre-stored in a memory, the operation guide explaining at least one of the external operations and corresponding camera functions) thereof and wherein at least the operation input unit, the recorder, **the display**, and the mode selector are enclosed within a main camera body.

9. (Amended) The electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein the playback unit **further comprises a sound reproducing device, and** plays back the operation guide in the form of sound.

10. (Amended) The electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein the playback unit plays back the operation guide **on the display** in the form of images.

14. (Three Times Amended) An electronic camera, comprising:
an image pickup unit for capturing an image of an object;
a recorder for recording the image captured by the image pickup unit on a recording medium;
a playback unit **having a display** for at least playing back image information that is recorded on the recording medium;
a mode selector for selecting a function diagnosis mode; and
a function tester for testing functions of the camera if the function diagnosis mode is selected by the mode selector, the functions of the camera to be tested including functions of at least one of the image pickup unit, the recorder, and the playback unit, wherein at least the recorder, **the display**, the mode selector, and the function tester are enclosed within a main camera body.

16. (Amended) The electronic camera according to claim 14, wherein the playback unit **further comprises a sound reproducing device, and** plays back image information that is recorded on the recording medium in accordance with an external operation specifying a playback function of the playback unit, and wherein while the camera is set to the function diagnosis mode by the mode selector, the function tester tests the playback function of the playback unit specified by the external operation.

18. (Twice Amended) An electronic camera having a plurality of functions including capturing and recording images, the electronic camera comprising:

a mode selector externally switchable to select one of a function diagnosis mode and a normal mode;

an operation input unit for inputting external operations that initiate corresponding functions of the camera while the camera is in the normal mode;

an image pickup unit for capturing the image of an object in accordance with the external operations inputted through the operation unit while the camera is in the normal mode;

a recorder for recording the image captured by the image pickup unit in accordance with the external operations inputted through the operation input unit while the camera is in the normal mode;

a playback unit **having a display** for at least playing back image information that is recorded on the recording medium in accordance with the external operations inputted through the operation input unit while the camera is in the normal mode; and

a function tester for testing functions of at least one of the operation input unit, the image

pickup unit, the recorder, and the playback unit, when the function diagnosis mode is selected by the mode selector, wherein at least the mode selector, the operation input unit, the recorder, the display, and the function tester are enclosed within a main camera body.

21. (Twice Amended) An electronic camera having a plurality of functions including capturing and recording images, the electronic camera comprising:

a mode selector externally switchable to select one of an operation explanation mode, a function diagnosis mode, and a normal mode;

an operation input unit for inputting external operations that initiate corresponding functions of the camera while the camera is in the normal mode;

an image pickup unit for capturing the image of an object in accordance with the external operations inputted through the operation input unit while the camera is in the normal mode;

a recorder for recording the image captured by the image pickup unit in accordance with the external operations inputted through the operation input unit while the camera is in the normal mode;

a playback unit having a display for at least playing back image information that is recorded on the recording medium in accordance with the external operations inputted through the operation input unit while the camera is in the normal mode; and

a function tester for testing functions of at least one of the operation input unit, the image pickup unit, the recorder, and the playback unit, when the function diagnosis mode is selected by the mode selector,

wherein if the operation explanation mode is selected at the mode selector, the playback

unit plays back an operation guide that is pre-stored in a memory, the operation guide explaining at least one of the camera operations and functions thereof and wherein at least the operation input unit, the recorder, the display, and the function tester are enclosed within a main camera body.

22. (Twice Amended) An electronic camera having a plurality of functions including capturing and recording images, comprising:

input means for inputting external operations that designate corresponding functions of the camera to be performed;

capture means for capturing an image of an object;

recording means for recording the image captured by the capturing means on a recording medium;

playback means having a display for playing back image information that is recorded on the recording means; and

selecting means for selecting an operation mode of the camera from a plurality of available operation modes, where one operation mode is an operation explanation mode,

wherein if the operation explanation mode is selected at the selecting means, the playback means plays back an operation guide that is pre-stored in a memory, the operation guide explaining at least one of the external operations and corresponding camera functions thereof and wherein at least the input means, the recording means, and the selecting means are enclosed within a main camera body.

23. (Three Times Amended) An electronic camera, comprising:

capturing means for capturing an image of an object;

recording means for recording the image captured by the capturing means on a recording medium;

playback means **having a display** for playing back image information that is recorded on the recording medium;

selecting means for selecting a function diagnosis mode; and

testing means for testing functions of the camera if the function diagnosis mode is selected by the selecting means, the functions of the camera to be tested including functions of at least one of the capturing means, the recording means, and the playback means, wherein at least the recording means, the selecting means, and the testing means are enclosed within a main camera body.